

Crosby Post

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"WHITE CHRISTMAS" - FOR SURE

Bing, who bowed out of Paramount's projected "White Christmas" in March, because he needed a rest is now back in the picture, which is due to start in late August (a Christmas premiere perhaps?). To have made a film of Bing's biggest selling song hit without the old maestro would have been a fatal mistake. FRED ASTAIRE, who bowed out of the film at the same time as Bing, is still not secured and his place will be taken by DONALD O'CONNOR who is now twenty-eight. Do you remember the last time Bing appeared in a film with Donald O'Connor? It was "Sing You Sinners". O'Connor was the "Small Fry" who Bing sang about and as everyone knows, he's no 'small fry' now having proved himself to be an outstanding artist in musical pictures. IRVING BERLIN will, of course, be in charge of the "White Christmas" music department and the film will feature several of his old tunes as well as many new compositions.

THE MARCH WINDS BLOW IN CROSBY and crosby

March 19th is the day when Bing and Lindsay set off from New York on their trip to Europe. Youngest Crosby, Lindsay, is over a year ahead with his studies so his school attendance is no problem. Bing says that one reason he's bringing Lindsay to Europe is because the boy is showing an aptitude for painting having already produced some good oil paintings and Europe, being the centre of all the arts, will interest the younger Crosby.

TELEVISION WITH A TOUCH OF CROSBY

In January Bing made a surprise guest appearance on BOB HOPE'S television show (it needed a big name to 'make it'). All reports say that the old Groaner looked extremely well and stole the show. Later reports state that Bing has consented to start a monthly summer series this year.

BING BY BING CROSBY

It has always been difficult to get Crosby to talk about himself, however he has at last consented and the American journal, "The Saturday Evening Post" sent a reporter thousands of miles following Bing with a tape recorder thus getting a more lively autobiography.

Kemsley Newspapers have bought the rights of this serial story and their Sunday newspaper, "The Sunday Graphic" has already started on the first of the eight instalments. Rolls Publishers (distributors of "Saturday Evening Post") kindly offered to arrange for a few copies to be held for this club but now one of our own journals has the British rights we have declined their offer.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

Next time you hear old ski-nose take a chorus of his theme song, try to remember the first time you heard it. It was introduced and sung by a new face on the screen. The Big Broadcast of 1938 marked the debut of BOB HOPE. In fifteen years it has echoed all over the world, in Army camps, hospitals, on battlefronts - anywhere Bob's infectious good humour could make tired men and women laugh a little. Few entertainers have given so much of themselves to help others, few have become world wide institutions in the process. In recognition of Bob's great work in entertainment, the Entertainment World held Bob Hope Week throughout the USA in February and topped the week with a testimonial dinner at the famous Friars Club.

DOCTOR CROSBY

Judy Garland's recent big hit in American show business is due to one man (says "Modern Screen"). While Judy was taking advice from all the leading psychiatrists, it was Bing Crosby who put her to work several times on his radio show to give her back her stage courage.

T h e C R O S B Y S O C I E T Y (Incorporating The British Bing Club)
 + Established in March, 1950 by permission of Mr. Bing Crosby. +
 Honorary President: BING CROSBY, 9028, Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, California.
 Hon. Vice President: LARRY CROSBY, - do. -
 Honorary Member: JAMES WILSON, of St. Andrews, Scotland.
 Active Presidents: JEAN RAINEY, 41, Basing Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex.
 A.N. ALLEN, 68, Grimston rd., Radford Blvd., Nottingham.
 Vice President: LESLIE GAYLOR, 41, Linden rd., Newport, Isle of Wight.
 Club Secretary: DOROTHY HARDIMAN, 1/17, New street, Smethwick, Staffs.

C O M M E N T

We have, we hope, started SPRING in the right fashion by springing this surprise on you.

This "Crosby Post" is the first edition of our new monthly reviews. At the moment we are restricted to four pages but we are thinking of a larger effort as soon as finances permit.

Once again Art becomes editor and is now partnered in that capacity by Jean. We aim to give you the stop press news on the many activities of Bing and we promise you an 'ON TIME' journal each and every month. Perhaps it is the right time to thank Reg Davis and his capable staff for turning out the old "Crosbyana" which started so well but later twinkled and twinkled until it nearly went out. We didn't want to try to revive an old flame so we thought up what is now "Crosby Post" and we do hope you'll like it. If you don't then tell us immediately and we'll right any big wrongs.

As you've seen on the front page Bing and Lindsay are coming over to these shores very soon and it is hoped that some of us will be able to have a chat with both of them. Larry tells the club that Bing will be armed with our names and addresses when he comes over and so, providing he doesn't get himself involved in too many commitments, there is a good chance of some of us seeing the old man in the flesh.

Another important change we almost forgot to mention is our new style or title. It is now the 'Crosby Society' and this change was instigated because of our old 'Bing Club' initials reading 'BBC' which is the name of the radio corporation which cannot afford Crosby and the Grand National. Perhaps they'll make an exception this year and offer the old Groaner enough to pay his income tax.

Many of you are due to renew this month. The fee is still 7/6 and this amount should be sent to the club secretary without delay, (Mrs. Hardiman's address is above this feature). Please remember to mention if you are renewing when you send your subscription. The fee of 7/6 entitles you to full membership for one year only as previously stated in "crosbyana" last year.

We cannot let John Parker's "candid Commentary" pass without a word or two in reply to his attack on Leslie Gaylor therein. You will remember that Mr. Parker advised Les to "shake down the stars" as every record reviewed by Les had a "galaxy of stars". In defence of our vice president, who is probably the most sincere person that John Parker could meet, we say that Croz is as good as ever and most certainly better than when he made those near-tenor recordings about twenty years ago of which John wrote as being the best Crosby discs. Those discs and we are supposing he means "Last Round-Up", "Temptation", "Learn to Croon", etc., etc., were sensational and like all seven wonders such a voice couldn't last for long. John Scott Trotter advised Bing to 'adopt' a lower key when he was recording songs from the Paramount picture, "Rhythm on the Range" and Bing has never returned to key which is reserved for tenors settling himself down as a weary baritone with a range larger than that of to-day's youngsters. Only a couple of years ago the American magazine, "Metronome", which is ultra modern had to admit that the Crosby voice was more suited to "So In Love" than that of Muerse and co. because the song was 'rangy'. Oliver King, renowned critic of the famous "Gramophone", writes in his March review, "The more I listen to modern popular vocalists, the more I am convinced that they are moulded to a set pattern. This, of course, does not apply to Bing Crosby his slow, pensive style has never yet been successfully imitated."

Perhaps Mr. Parker would like to know that we have dropped the star honorary members almost 'en bloc' retaining Mr. Jim Wilson, who is most definitely a friend of Bing Crosby.

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"BING CROSBY'S FUTURE" by Louella Parsons, world famous writer
and an intimate friend of Bing Crosby.

Let's get this question out of the way - right away: There will be no second marriage for Bing Crosby. I am no fortuneteller, but I feel I can say from knowledge based on a long friendship and what I believe is a real understanding of one of the best-known least-known men in the world, that he can never accept or even look for a substitute for the great love Dixie bore him. It wouldn't be good enough.

I say that Bing will retire into a man's world of his four rapidly growing sons and his intimate, closed circle of men friends who, for years, have been his inseparable companions. One of these is his writer Bill Morrow. Another is songwriter Jimmy Van Heusen.

Bing is a man's man - no matter how many women swoon over his songs!

While Dixie was lying ill - not knowing she was a victim of cancer Bing brought home a suggestion that she should plan a long contemplated home in Palm Springs. Dixie planned the house right to the design of the curtains and the house was built. This will be the Crosbys' real home in the future. Here in this somewhat small home for a big entertainer the boys will spend their holidays with their "old man" in an intimacy and closeness of association the big, sprawling Crosby mansion in Holmby Hills never afforded.

Bing has always been interested in his kids as individuals. Now he is devoted to them. Not that he will be maudlin or over sentimental to his motherless brood. Far from it. Bing has been a strict father to his heart's content - but he's going to be a father and a mother to the youngest son, Lindsay - because he can't help himself. All the deep tenderness in Bing's nature, that sometimes seems to manifest itself fully only when he is singing, goes out to encircle young Lindsay and hold him in warm affection. When Bing goes travelling you can be sure that Linny will be by his side as well as his favourite going-to-Europe partner Bill Morrow. Bill is a wonderful buffer for Bing for he has such a delightful way of turning down the many invites afforded Bing when he is abroad. The hostesses, continental or home grown don't know they have been turned down in favour of a stroll in the Paris boulevards or a bachelor dinner in London. It isn't easy - this getting Bing out of numerous engagements which come from the ordinary folk and the upper echelon of of European society, diplomacy and recently, royalty.

One cause which particularly appealed to Bing was a golf tournament with Bob Hope, Donald Peers and Ted Ray. The match was in aid of the Duke of Edinburgh's favourite charity - Playing Fields for Youth. A lot of money was raised and the next day a letter -hand written by Prince Philip, was delivered to Bing thanking him for his services and asking him to accept one of the Duke's "old school ties". I didn't get this story from Bing who will 'die' when he reads this. Nor will he be happy when he reads here that one of the first telegrams to arrive at the Crosby house of mourning came from General Dwight D. Eisenhower who, with millions in the USA and abroad expressed heartfelt sympathy over the death of Dixie.)))))))

The following members would like to hear from others who have similar interests: (Crosby, films, etc.)

Miss JEAN STEWARD, 38, Flora Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex.

Miss AGNES O'MALLEY, 33, Fountainwell road, Glasgow -North.

No.22885546 PRIVATE MARSHALL, ACC ATT 4/7 RDG, B Squadron -Haig Lines, Crookham, Hants.

The following would like to hear from persons who might introduce them to pen pals in the USA:-

WILLIAM JOHNSTON, 28, Milton street, Glasgow - C.4.

MEMBERS WISHING TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP, or whose membership period is due to expire shortly please fill in this form and post, with 7/6 postal order, to Mrs. Dorothy Hardiman, 1/17, New Street, Smethwick, Staffordshire.

I, wish to renew my membership in "The CROSBY SOCIETY" formerly the British Bing Club. I enclose a 7/6 P.O. My address:))

the groaner in the groove



LES GAYLOR'S reviews have not arrived at press time so the Editor steps into the breach.

- 05019 COOL WATER (Bing, Andrews Sisters) This Bob Nolan tune is a little late nevertheless it's welcome for it's Bing's meat and the Andrews Sisters show well in this slow (for them) western.
- SOUTH RAMPART STREET PARADE (Bing, Andrews Sisters, Matlock orch) If played quietly one can appreciate the splendid sense of timing and rhythm of this Bob Haggart-Bob Crosby composition. Bob Crosby and his band should have done the accompaniment but no complaints.
- 05033 TO SEE YOU IS TO LOVE YOU* (Bing, Axel Stordahl orc.) The perfectly balanced Crosby baritone plus a matching orchestral acc. by Axel (late Sinatra) Stordahl. Fine ballad, fine setting, fine Crosby.
- MOONFLOWER* by Peggy Lee is on the reverse side.
- 05034 CHICAGO STYLE* and HOOTS MON* (Bing, Bob Hope) If you've seen the film you'll enjoy these two songs more, if not, they'll grow on you. The former side is a little noisy owing to Joe Lilly and his orchestra letting rip unnecessarily.
- 05035 THE ROAD TO BALI* (Bing, Bob Hope) Sonny Burke and the Rhythmaires assist the boys on this, another comedy number. I trust it's only supposed to be a joke for that's all it measures up to.
- MERRY GO ROUND* (Bing, Bob, Peggy Lee) is more of a song. It's yet another gay comedy number but by far the best of the bunch.
- (* indicates the song is featured in "Road To Bali.")
- 05037 KEEP IT A SECRET (Bing, Conlon Rhythmaires, Trotter orc.) One of those Crosbyesque romantic songs very slightly marred by the choir and the unusual musical arrangement which has been done before.
- PASS THAT PEACE PIPE (Bing, Chickadees, Trotter orc.) is a well constructed all round good effort. You can detect that all concerned are having a wonderful time recording it.
- 05048 I STILL SEE ELISA (Bing, Trotter orc.) From "Paint Your Wagon" this is a very stylish Crosby really in the mood with John Scott doing an excellent accompanying job. Hear Bing's vibrato on this.
- ANY TOWN IS PARIS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG (Bing, Trotter orc.) Written by J.S. Trotter this should have been good but it turns out to be just another love ballad literally churned out to-day.
- LONG PLAYING CROSBY. LA 8558 features Bing and Connee Boswell in eight tunes you've probably got on 78. Only one is not available now on 78.
- LA 8505 has Bing singing Jerome Kern tunes: two of Bing with Dixie Lee.

PRINTED MATTER.

